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SOURCE REF:

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO,
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION
CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR ██████████ 25X1A9a
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: AUG 23, 1974

SUBJECT: FEDAYEEN LEADER CRITICIZES SOVIET MIDDLE EAST POLICY
REF : FBIS 25, 3 AUG 74, UNCL

GEORGE HABBASH, LEADER OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE
LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)--ONE OF THE MORE RADICAL
FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS--HAS REITERATED HIS LONG-STANDING
OPPOSITION TO PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT'S WILLINGNESS TO parti-
CIPATE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS AND TO SOVIET SUPPORT
OF THIS POSITION. HABBASH TIMED HIS STATEMENT TO COIN-
CIDE WITH THE CONCLUSION OF ARAFAT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW.

IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN SEVERAL BEIRUT NEWS-
PAPERS TODAY, HABBASH OPENLY CRITICIZED MOSCOW'S MIDDLE
EAST POLICY. HE CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE IN "ERROR"

DATE:

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UNIT:

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SENSITIVE

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TO THINK THAT THERE COULD BE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION UNDER EXISTING CONDITIONS. SOVIET POLICY, HE REPORTEDLY SAID, WAS INEFFECTIVE BECAUSE IT ADMITS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND THUS SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN NATION ON ONLY A PART OF THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. HE REPORTEDLY WAS CAREFUL, HOWEVER, NOT TO EXAGGERATE DIFFERENCES WITH MOSCOW. HE CLAIMED THAT HIS GROUP'S REFUSAL TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE ALONG ON ARAFAT'S TRIP STEMMED NOT FROM AN ANTI-SOVIET BIAS BUT FROM HIS WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE ABSENCE OF UNANIMITY AMONG THE FEDAYEEN GROUPS ON THE QUESTION OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. E-2 IMPDET-H SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

MEA DIV AND NIO [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

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DATE: AUGUST 3, 1974
ORIG: [REDACTED] WHSS 25X1A9a
UNIT: CIA OPS CTR
EXT: 4340

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